



PROGRAM HANDBOOK

2020 – 2021

www.youngvoicesofaustin.org

Congratulations and Welcome to Young Voices of Austin!

It is with great excitement that we welcome you to our fourth year of YVA. We invite you to join us in kicking off the year with these three words from our Mission: Honorable. Accomplished. And Kind.

As a chorister of Young Voices of Austin, you will be expected to assume the role of professional musician and engaged participant during our program and events. We encourage you to use your time wisely so that you get the most enjoyment and benefit out of your commitment to YVA.

Please read this handbook with a parent or guardian and turn in the contract (last page), signed, at your final interview.

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Divisions

YVA has three ensembles, each separated by the educational levels of Primary, Intermediate, and Secondary. All choristers perform in one major concert per semester in addition to other special events.

Vox Prima

Tuesday, 4:00-5:30 pm
1st-5th grade

Vox Medius

Monday, 4:30-6:00 pm
6th-8th grade

Vox Dominus

Monday, 5:30-7:00 pm
9th-12th grade

Music Literacy

Choristers will learn critical music skills such as sight-reading, vocal technique, and performance based skills for the advancement of their cognitive and social development. Additionally, singers will engage in folk song and dance.

Academic Achievement

Students will receive tutoring and/or homework assistance in several subject areas to help advance their academic achievement and reinforce excellent homework habits and study skills.

High Schoolers will receive assistance with college applications, FAFSA, and preparation for the SAT/ACT entrance exams.

Financial Literacy

Our Choristers will develop financial responsibility and decision making skills by participating in the curriculum developed by PriceWaterhouseCoopers.

Our preliminary calendar is included below. The official calendar will be released August 2020.

2020-2021 Program Calendar

September, 2020

Monday, September 14th – First Program Day-Vox Medius , 4:30pm-6 pm	Virtual
Tuesday, September 15th – First Program Day-Vox Prima , 4:00pm-5:30pm	Virtual
Tuesday, September 15th – First Program Day-Vox Dominus , 5:30pm-7 pm	Virtual

October, 2020 *

Monday/Tuesday, October 5th/6th- Solo Auditions (if needed)	Virtual
Monday, October 12th – NO PROGRAM (Indigenous Peoples’ Day)	
Saturday, October 17th – (TBD) Music Retreat, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm	Virtual

November, 2020

Joint Rehearsals (TBD)	Virtual/TBD
Monday/Tuesday, November 23rd/24th – NO PROGRAM (Thanksgiving Break)	

December, 2020

Joint Rehearsals (TBD)	Virtual/TBD
Saturday, December 6th - WINTER CONCERT	
Monday, December 7th– Winter Break Begins TRAIL OF LIGHTS	Virtual/TBD

January, 2021

Saturday, January 9th - YVA at Dreamland (Pickleball Welcome event/Performance)	
Monday/Tuesday, January 11th/12th – YVA Program Resumes	Dripping Springs, TX
Monday, January 18th – NO PROGRAM (MLK Holiday)	TBD
HOLD TBD - Financial Literacy/Career Workshop, 9:45 am-3:00 pm	TBD PricewaterhouseCoopers

February, 2021

Monday/Tuesday, February 8th/9th – Solo Auditions	TBD
Monday, February 15th – NO PROGRAM (Presidents’ Day)	
February, (TBD) – YVA Celebration and Fundraiser	TBD

March, 2021

Saturday, March 6th– YVA Retreat, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm (TBD for Spring)	
Monday/Tuesday, March 15/16th – NO PROGRAM (Spring Break)	TBD

April, 2021

Saturday, April TBD – MANDATORY DRESS REHEARSAL, 9:45 am- 4:00 pm

May, 2021

Saturday/Sunday May 1st or May 2nd SPRING CONCERT (Mandatory)

Time/Location TBD

*Tutoring will start on OCTOBER

Please check regularly, as the calendar will change throughout the year as performances and special events are scheduled. Choristers and their parents will be expected to schedule appointments *around* our rehearsals and performances. It is important to note that we follow the AISD calendar with regard to any emergency closings. (5/11/2020)

DRESS CODE

New and growing choristers will be provided one t-shirt, polo and fleece to be used at YVA concerts and events. If the provided uniform piece is lost, the student/parents will be responsible for purchasing a new one. Choristers are expected to keep all items well laundered throughout the year. Replacement costs: Fleece: \$30 Polo:\$25 T-Shirt:\$20

YVA T-shirts should be worn with blue jeans. Sneakers may be worn with this informal uniform.



Vox Prima and Medius polo shirt should be worn with light khaki pants and any pair of dark flat shoes.



Vox Dominus white button down logo shirt with khakis.



ATTENDANCE (PROGRAM DAYS)

Excessive absence affects the group as a whole. Our regular rehearsal schedule is one time per week and that program time is very valuable to us as a team. Please demonstrate your commitment to the program and understanding of this rule by arranging appointments around YVA events.

If you are not able to attend the program day, please call or email the YVA office by 10 AM. Please email yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org or call Diana or Jae to report your absence.

Acceptable number of absences for YVA Program: 2 absences from September through December and 3 absences from January through May-3 for a total of 5. This is an 80% attendance minimum rate that shows commitment to the organization and program.

*** Does not include mandatory dress rehearsals and performances!**

ATTENDANCE – PROGRAM DAYS (FOLLOW UP)

When a chorister is absent, it is his/her responsibility to: check in with their director(s) about the work that was covered at the missed program day; ie, activity, necessary music markings; home practice assignments.

ATTENDANCE – PERFORMANCES

All Choristers MUST participate in the Winter and Spring concerts. Mark your calendars. Additionally, attending two full Dress Rehearsals is mandatory.

BEHAVIOR

Choristers are expected to be respectful toward each other, YVA staff, concert hosts, and audience members at all times. Similarly, they are expected to treat their sheet music and facilities where they are guests, with care and respect. Choristers that are not respectful towards people and property will receive consequences that range from a warning to being charged for damage to dismissal from the program.

COLLEGE PREP

Students that are preparing to apply to colleges will receive FAFSA and college application help beginning October 2020.

CONCERT ATTIRE

All Choristers should arrive at each performance in complete concert attire, ready to sing. The attire will be announced several weeks in advance. Failure to wear specified concert attire may prevent a chorister from participating in the concert.

DRESS REHEARSALS

Students must attend the mandatory dress rehearsals as scheduled. These will be the only rehearsals where all three ensembles meet at the same time. Additional rehearsals will be added as necessary.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Phones must remain off and out of sight at all times, including transitional periods between tutoring, enrichment time, and chorus. All cell phones will be placed in the cell phone hotel upon arrival.

FINANCIAL AID

Scholarships are available for students who need assistance.

FINANCIAL LITERACY

YVA, in collaboration with PriceWaterhouseCoopers have incorporated an element of financial literacy into our program. Students will develop financial responsibility and decision making skills by participating in the curriculum taught by PriceWaterhouseCoopers volunteers. A workshop will be held in early 2021.

GUM

Gum is never allowed in any facilities. Ever.

GRADES

Choristers are requested to submit a copy of their most recent report card at their initial interview. They will be required to submit a copy of each consecutive report card for the entire year. This will be kept confidential and will only be used to track their progress. This applies to second grade and up.

HOME PRACTICE

Choristers are required to practice their music at home for at least 2 hours total before the next rehearsal. Options for practicing could be adding solfege, clapping new rhythms, marking dynamics, and/or singing through.

INTENT TO RETURN

An Intent to Return form must be submitted a month before the last concert. This will help us plan for the following year.

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

Your ID must be worn at every rehearsal and meeting of Young Voices of Austin. At performances, your ID must be with you on the premises and visible when not performing. Lost cards will incur a \$5 replacement fee.

ILLNESS

If a singer is well enough to go to school and is not contagious, he/she should still consider attending rehearsal. If a singer cannot sing but is not sick, it is important that he/she still attend rehearsal if possible, but inform the Director that he/she will be listening to and following the music, marking the music appropriately, and singing inside his/her head. Even though a chorister is not actively singing, he/she is actively learning. However, if a chorister becomes ill during program time, a parent/guardian will be called and must make arrangements to pick up their child in a timely manner. Under no circumstances will a sick student be allowed to ride the van.

MISSION

The mission of Young Voices of Austin is to foster musical excellence, leadership, and sustained academic achievement. Our choristers become global citizens who use the power of music as the path to create bridges throughout our city and into the world.

Honorable. Accomplished. And Kind.

MUSIC FOLDERS

Each chorister will be assigned a music folder for the entire program year. You will be responsible for this folder and a pencil in that folder to mark your music during every rehearsal. All music will be furnished. Choristers are required to bring their folders to every rehearsal without exception. If a chorister does not have their folder, they will be unable to fully engage in the rehearsal and thus be behind in the weekly progress of each piece of music being learned. Replacement Music Folder Fee: \$5 (Prima) and \$10 (Medius and Dominus). Music Octavo Fee: \$5 for each missing piece.

PICK-UP

Students not taking the bus must be picked up promptly at the end of each program day. They cannot be left waiting outside the program venue. Parents should not wait for a phone call before coming to pick up their chorister. Choristers riding the bus must be picked up promptly from drop-off location.

PUNCTUALITY

Arrive on time and ready to begin work.

RELEASE FORMS

Each parent must sign all required release forms.

ROSTER

A chorus roster will be distributed to all families at the beginning of the year.

SAT/ACT Prep

Students will participate in provided tutoring for college entrance exams during the spring semester taught by qualified personnel.

TRAVEL

Choristers may take local and overnight trips. Trip dates will be announced in advance. When on trips, all rules of the program apply. Students who do not obey rules or exhibit unacceptable behavior will be sent home at parents' expense.

TUTORING

Students will receive tutoring in any subject area(s) of need from tutors in local organizations and universities. These sessions will be scheduled throughout the year after the month of October and will provide weekly assistance to help complete homework assignments and improve skills in subject where the student needs extra reinforcement and practice.

TUITION

The current tuition is \$700 per year. Tuition is due in full before August 9, 2020. Tuition is payable by check, money order or on our website through Paypal. Tuition fees are non-refundable. You may request a summer payment plan prior to the 2020-2021 season. Choristers will not be allowed to attend the first session of the program if their tuition has not been paid in full.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are always needed. If you are interested in volunteering your time and/or services, please contact us at 512-617-3908 or email us at yva@youngvoicesofaustin.org .

WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Our official website is www.youngvoicesofaustin.org. Please visit the site and join our mailing list in order to receive important updates. Visit our YVA page on Facebook and be sure to Like and Follow!

CHORISTER/PARENT CHECKLIST

- Read Program Handbook
- Print, complete, and return all forms, including:
 - Chorister Agreement Form
 - A copy of the most recent report card received (1st graders exempt)
 - All Release Forms
 - Copy of the front and back of insurance form
- Visit www.youngvoicesofaustin.org
- Like our Young Voices of Austin page on Facebook
- Keep this Handbook in a handy spot for continued reference.

CHORISTER AGREEMENT

2020-2021

I have read the Program Handbook and understand everything that will be expected of me as a chorister/parent(s) of this organization.

Student Name (Printed) _____ Date

Student Signature _____ Date

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date

Chorister's Street Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Please provide an emergency contact below. Emergency contact should be someone other than the parents/guardians.

Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____ Alt. Phone Number: _____

We look forward to making music with all of you this year!